



# DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

700 King Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8P 1C7

## Children's Liturgy of the Word Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Overview

The overarching theme for the Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C, is vigilance and readiness for the Lord's coming, rooted in faith and trust in God's providential care. The readings emphasize the importance of living a life prepared for Christ's return, not in fear, but with joyful anticipation and faithful stewardship.

The Church must show special concern for children. <sup>1</sup> Children may find these readings challenging. CLoW leaders are encouraged to use pastoral judgment to present them and the reflection using language proportionate to their age. <sup>2</sup>

### Potential Key Words and Concepts for Children

**Trust:** To believe that someone will do what they say they will do, and that they will take care of you. (From the First Reading and Psalm).

**Faith:** Believing in things we hope for, even if we can't see them right now. It's like knowing something is true in your heart. (From the Second Reading about Abraham).

**Ready:** Being prepared and waiting for something important to happen. (From the Gospel, "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit").

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<sup>1</sup> Directory for Masses with Children, 1

<sup>2</sup> *ibid*, 9

## Self-Reflection Questions

- † In what areas of my life do I feel most "dressed for action" and prepared, and in what areas do I feel unprepared or complacent?
- † What are my "treasures"? Am I investing more in earthly possessions and fleeting comforts, or in "unfailing treasure in heaven"?
- † How can I invite the Holy Spirit to help me grow in these areas?

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## Background

**Wisdom 18:6-9** connects to the Exodus narrative and the final plague in Egypt, where the angel of death struck down the Egyptians' firstborn while sparing the Israelites. This symbolizes God's protection and leads to Israel's deliverance. The passage contrasts between the Egyptians' destruction and the Israelites' salvation, honouring their faith and anticipating future blessings. The Exodus foreshadows redemption through Christ, affirming the dignity of every person.

**Psalms 33** is a hymn celebrating God's steadfast love and faithfulness. It highlights his watchful care over those who trust him, encouraging praise for his saving acts and confidence in his ongoing protection.

**Hebrews 11** exhorts steadfastness in faith. It draws inspiration from the unwavering trust of patriarchs like Abraham, who lived by the conviction of God's promises. Hebrews encourages believers to fix their gaze on the heavenly promises, awaiting the fulfillment of God's ultimate plan.

**Luke 12:35-40** is Jesus' ongoing instruction to his disciples on how to live in light of the Kingdom of God. It calls for radical trust in God's providence, detachment from worldly possessions, constant spiritual vigilance, and responsible stewardship, all in anticipation of the Lord's unexpected return.

## The Liturgy

### Procession from the main Church

After the opening prayer, when all are seated, the leaders come forward and stand facing the altar.

**Priest: Are you ready to go with your leaders and listen to the Word of God? Go now and listen to what Jesus says about being ready.**

When most of the children have formed a procession, the leader with the book proceeds to the place of the celebration. The second leader usually walks behind the children. Upon arrival at the location of the celebration, the leader places the book on the prepared table.

### Welcome.

The leaders assist the children in sitting and preparing. **Begin with the Sign of the Cross.** Help the children think and connect their actions as they touch their foreheads, shoulders, and stomachs. The leader may say the following prayer in these or similar words.

### Let us pray:

Pause for 5 – 10 seconds

**Lord Jesus,**

**Help us to ready ourselves to serve you and our family, friends and other people in our lives.**

Invite the children to listen to the readings. Proclaiming all the readings is unnecessary; however, the Gospel is required.

## Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

The night of the deliverance from Egypt <sup>3</sup>  
was made known beforehand to our ancestors,  
so that they might rejoice in sure knowledge of the oaths  
in which they trusted.

The deliverance of the righteous <sup>4</sup>  
and the destruction of their enemies  
were expected by your people.

For by the same means  
by which you punished our enemies  
you called us to yourself and glorified us.

For in secret  
the holy children of good people offered sacrifices, <sup>5</sup>  
and with one accord agreed to the divine law,  
so that the saints would share alike the same things,  
both blessings and dangers;  
and already they were singing the praises of the ancestors.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

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<sup>3</sup> The night of deliverance from Egypt is known as the Passover. This event is a central moment in the Israelites' history, commemorating their liberation from slavery under Pharaoh.

<sup>4</sup> In the Old Testament, the deliverance of the righteous demonstrates God's faithfulness to those who trust in him, even amidst severe trials and oppression. This deliverance is not solely about physical rescue but also spiritual salvation, protection, and fulfilling God's promises.

<sup>5</sup> The "holy children of good people" refers to the Israelites, who, by virtue of their covenant relationship and obedience to God, were considered holy and righteous in God's sight. This act of sacrifice was an act of faith and obedience to the divine instruction

## Responsorial Psalm

R. Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous.

Praise befits the upright.

Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord,  
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage. R.

Truly, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,  
on those who hope in his steadfast love,  
to deliver their soul from death,  
and to keep them alive in famine. R.

Our soul waits for the Lord;  
he is our help and shield.

Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,  
even as we hope in you. R.

## Second Reading

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,  
the conviction of things not seen.

Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval.

By faith, Abraham obeyed

when he was called to set out for a place

that he was to receive as an inheritance;

and he set out,

not knowing where he was going.

By faith, he stayed for a time

in the land he had been promised,

as in a foreign land, living in tents,

as did Isaac and Jacob,

who were heirs with him of the same promise.

For Abraham looked forward to the city that has foundations,

whose architect and builder is God.

By faith Sarah herself, though barren,

received power to conceive, even when she was too old,

because she considered him faithful who had promised.

Therefore, from one person,

and this one as good as dead,

descendants were born,

"as many as the stars of heaven

and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

## Gospel

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples,  
Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out,  
an unfailing treasure in heaven,  
where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.  
For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit;  
be like those who are waiting for their master  
to return from the wedding banquet,  
so that they may open the door for him  
as soon as he comes and knocks.

Blessed are those slaves  
whom the master finds alert when he comes;  
truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt  
and have them sit down to eat,  
and he will come and serve them.  
If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn,  
and finds them so,  
blessed are those slaves.

“But know this:  
if the owner of the house  
had known at what hour the thief was coming,  
he would not have let his house be broken into.  
You also must be ready,  
for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The gospel of the Lord.

## Adapted Liturgy of the Word for Children

### First Reading

The first reading for CLoW is omitted this week.

### Responsorial Psalm

R. Happy the people the Lord has chosen.

Rejoice in the Lord.

Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord. R.

Our soul waits for the Lord;  
he is our help and shield. R.

Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,  
even as we hope in you. R.

## Second Reading

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Faith<sup>6</sup> is the assurance of things hoped for,  
the conviction of things not seen.

By faith, Abraham<sup>7</sup> obeyed  
when he was called to set out for a place  
that he was to receive as an inheritance;<sup>8</sup>  
and he set out,  
not knowing where he was going.

By faith, he stayed for a time  
in the land he had been promised,  
as in a foreign land, living in tents,  
as did Isaac and Jacob,  
who were heirs with him of the same promise.

For Abraham looked forward to the city that has foundations,  
whose architect and builder is God.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

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<sup>6</sup> Faith is a theological virtue by which individuals believe in God and accept all that God has revealed. Faith is rooted in God's own authority, as God is truth itself and can neither deceive nor be deceived.

<sup>7</sup> Abraham is revered as the great-grandfather of tribal Israel. He lived around 2000 B.C. God established a covenant so Abraham might become the father of nations.

<sup>8</sup> God promised Abraham that his descendants would inherit Canaan, a territory that the Israelites conquered and settled following the Exodus.

## Gospel

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples,

"Be ready for action and have your lamps lit <sup>9</sup> just like the servants who wait up for their master to return from a feast. As soon as he comes and knocks, they open the door for him.

"Servants are fortunate if their master finds them awake and ready when he comes, even though he comes late at night or early in the morning. So always be ready! You don't know when the Son of Man <sup>10</sup> will come.

The gospel of the Lord.

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<sup>9</sup> "Dressed for action" refers to tucking up long robes to allow for freedom of movement, signifying readiness for work or travel. "Lamps lit" indicates spiritual alertness and readiness to act, dispelling ignorance or spiritual slumber.

<sup>10</sup> A title that Jesus frequently gave himself.

## Reflection

The leader may offer this reflection in these or similar words. Remember the amount of time available to return to the main assembly. The leader may wish to reduce the number of questions. An excellent place to begin is the question:

**What did you hear?** Allow each child to respond to the Word of God in their own words. Then, begin a general discussion, building on their responses, using prepared questions, like the following, to stimulate ideas.

Today, we hear some very important messages that teach us about being ready and trusting in God.

### **What does it mean to "trust in God"?**

Our reading to the Hebrews tells us something very special about faith: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." This means that faith is being sure about what we hope for, even if we can't see it right now. It's like knowing that the sun will rise tomorrow, even though it's dark outside.

Jesus then tells us to "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit." He wants us to be like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding. When the master comes and knocks, the servants who are ready will open the door for him right away. Jesus says that those servants are blessed, and the master will even serve them!

### **What does it mean to be "dressed for action" and have our "lamps lit"?**

It means we should always be ready for Jesus. We don't know when He will come again, just like we don't know when a thief might come. So, we must always be prepared.

What can we learn from these readings today?

Trust in God: Like Abraham, we need to have faith that God will always keep God's promises and care for us.

Be Ready for Jesus: We should always be prepared for Jesus' coming. This means living good lives, following God's commandments, and being kind to others.

Let us pray that we may always have strong faith, be ready for Jesus, and use our gifts to serve Him and others. Amen.

Following the reflection, the prayer leader invites everyone to stand to profess their faith. Recite the Creed or use the sample below to ask the children to respond.

## The Creed

Depending on the time, a simple profession of faith may be made (see below).

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

All: I believe.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, who gave his life for us?

All: I believe.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit who lives in our hearts and gives us everlasting life?

All: I believe.

Leader: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it.

## Prayer of the Faithful

Leaders may begin the intercessions by announcing the needs they know. The leader may need to repeat and paraphrase the petition and conclude it with the cue for the response: we pray. All respond to each petition by saying, "Lord, hear our prayer." Sample intercessions are below.

**Leader:** My dear children, let us pray to God, who loves us and listens to everything in our hearts. **R.**

**Lector:** For our Holy Father, Pope \_\_\_\_, and all bishops, priests and deacons, that they may continue to teach us about God's love and help us grow in faith, we pray: **R.**

**Lector:** For our families and friends, that we may always remember to share our blessings with others and be kind to everyone we meet, just as Jesus taught us, we pray: **R.**

**Lector:** For ourselves, that we may always be ready for Jesus, keeping our hearts open to Him and doing good deeds every day, we pray: **R.**

**Lector:** For all those who are sick or hurting, that God may bring them healing and peace, and that we may remember to pray for them, we pray: **R.**

**Lector:** For those who have died, that they may rest with Jesus in heaven, we pray: **R.**

The leader may invite other intercessions from the children.

**Leader:** Heavenly Father, we thank you for listening to our prayers. Help us to always trust in you, be ready for your coming, and share your love with everyone. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ask the children to return to the main assembly. Ask them to return quietly and think about what they have heard and are now doing. Be mindful of children having difficulty finding their families.

Liturgy adapted for Children.

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Acknowledgments:

LECTIONARY SUNDAYS AND SOLEMNITIES

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